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PP RUEHIK  
DE RUEHAH #1498 3280904  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 240904Z NOV 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3789  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5916  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3619  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3478  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4158  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1264  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4111  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001498

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN; EEB  
ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/BURPOE/COHEN  
COMMERCE FOR EHOUSE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EIND](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [EINV](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: GE TURBINES BOOST ELECTRICITY CAPACITY IN TURKMENISTAN

11. (U) Sensitive But Unclassified. Not For Public Internet.

12. (U) Chalyk Energy, a Turkish company, and General Electric (GE) are nearing completion of a project to build a new power station in Balkanabat, the capital city of Balkan Province in western Turkmenistan. According to an article in the November 17 issue of state-run newspaper Neutral Turkmenistan, the province is currently undergoing an industrial and construction boom. Six years ago, three GE-produced turbines were installed at Balkanabat's old power station, bringing the station's capacity to 126 megawatts (MW). Balkanenergo replaced some parts of the power distribution system at the station to improve efficiency, and the station operations were computerized.

13. (U) GE was praised in the Neutral Turkmenistan article for producing the highest quality electricity generating turbines in the country. GE sold two gas turbines with a capacity of 127.1 MW each to Balkanenergo for the new power station. The power station is expected to open in March 2010. The article mentioned that Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov issued a decree ordering the construction of new power stations in Balkan province, probably to support new factories under construction around Balkanabat. A new cement factory is expected to consume the largest amount of the power. However, the article also mentioned that the increased capacity would enable these power stations to supply energy to Iran.

14. (U) Turkmenistan has already constructed two other power plants in Ashgabat and the Dashoguz province in partnership with Chalyk Energy and GE. The Dashoguz facility was commissioned in 2007, and the Ashgabat facility, which provides power to the Archabil region near the Embassy's residential compound, opened in 2005. Moreover, Turkmenistan produces a surplus of power that it exports to Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Tajikistan.

15. (SBU) COMMENT. The recent article in the Turkmen state newspaper mentioned General Electric several times and boasted the GOTX's partnership with a "world giant in electric generation machinery." Clearly, the GE name is respected in Turkmenistan, which might lead to future deals for the company. According to GE, its units already

make up Turkmenistan's entire gas turbine fleet, which will have a generation capacity of 1,800 MW once pending installations are completed. END COMMENT.

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